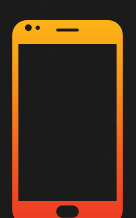




How to prepare for Ramadan

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful





Assalamu'alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu,

We pray that this message reaches you
in good health and imaan.

On behalf of our AMAU Academy team, we would like
to present to you these compiled notes that we have
prepared to make your journey with us a lot easier.

Our notes are compiled by the AMAU Admin team
and have not been comprehensively checked
by a teacher.

If you find any errors or corrections that need
to be made, kindly inform us via our email
helpdesk@amauacademy.com

May Allah make our paths toward seeking
beneficial knowledge easy and kindle our hearts
with sincerity and gratefulness
towards Him.

Jazakumullahu Khayran



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Glossary



جل جلاله | Jalla Jalāluhu
Allah the Most Exalted



صلى الله عليه وسلم | Sallāllāhu Alayhi Wa Sallam
Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him

The Virtues of Ramadan

Chapter One

When beginning an undertaking, in order to ensure success and achievement, one must make necessary preparations for it. These preparations may include the acquiring of certain traits, characteristics or knowledge, or relinquishing other traits that may not be useful for the said endeavor.

Indeed, the month of Ramadan is one of immense virtues and blessings. In order to prepare oneself to achieve during the great month of Ramadan, the first step is to be aware of those virtues. This awareness comes through knowledge. Allah, ﷻ, informed us:

1 شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ ۚ
فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ

The month of Ramaḍān [is that] in which was revealed the Qur’ān, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. So whoever sights [the crescent of] the month, let him fast it.

Surah Al-Baqarah 185

Thus, the primary virtue of Ramadan is that the Quran was revealed in it. This Quran, which Allah describes as a guidance for people, is the greatest miracle mankind has ever witnessed.

It is the direct Speech of Allah, the Creator of everything, in which He addresses us directly, giving us guidance in it and rulings, and informing us of the nations of old. For that reason, during this month, we increase our recitation of the Quran, and we focus on pondering over its ayat.

Another virtue of Ramadan is that it is the month of mercy. The gates of Jannah open, and are left opened for the duration of the month, and the gates of Jahannam close, and remain closed for the duration of the month:

2 إِذَا دَخَلَ رَمَضَانُ فَتُحَّتْ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ، وَغُلِّقَتْ أَبْوَابُ جَهَنَّمَ، وَسُلْسِلَتِ الشَّيَاطِينُ

Abu Hurayrah narrated that Allah’s Messenger ﷺ said: “When the month of Ramadan enters, the gates of Paradise open, the gates of Hellfire close, and the devils are chained.”

Al-Bukharee (3277) and Muslim (1079)

Due to the closing of the gates of Jahannam and the descending of Allah’s special mercy during this month, people are freed from the punishment of the Fire during Ramadan.

Many people, due to the accumulation of their misdeeds – either by committing acts they were prohibited from, or leaving off what they were commanded to do – are destined to go to Jahannam. Allah’s refuge is sought. But it is in Ramadan that they are freed and are taken off that list of people destined to be punished in the Fire.

Therefore, you must use the months before Ramadan, such as Rajab and Sha'ban, to exert effort in preparing for it. Prepare by abandoning your sins and bad habits, increase in worship such as prayer and optional fasting, and gain more knowledge. Learn about the reward of Jannah and its description, so you can be encouraged to attain it.

Also, learn about Jahannam and its description, so you can be encouraged to avoid it. Certainly, success will be for the person who puts in his or her best effort during this great month of Ramadan, taking advantage of its virtues, while hoping in Allah's immense reward.

Explaining the Hadeeth About the Virtues of Ramadan

Chapter Two

In the first lesson, we learned that in order to be successful in Ramadan, we must prepare for it, and that part of that preparation is learning about its great virtues. The following hadeeth provides an elaborate description of those virtues:

1

إِذَا كَانَ أَوَّلُ لَيْلَةٍ مِنْ شَهْرِ رَمَضَانَ صُفِّدَتِ الشَّيَاطِينُ وَمَرَدَةُ الْجِنِّ ، وَغُلِّقَتْ أَبْوَابُ النَّارِ فَلَمْ يُفْتَحْ مِنْهَا بَابٌ ، وَفُتِّحَتْ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ فَلَمْ يُغْلَقْ مِنْهَا بَابٌ ، وَيُنَادِي مُنَادٍ كُلَّ لَيْلَةٍ : يَا بَاغِيَ الْخَيْرِ أَقْبِلْ ، وَيَا بَاغِيَ الشَّرِّ أَقْصِرْ ، وَلِلَّهِ عِتْقَاءُ مِنَ النَّارِ ، وَذَلِكَ كُلُّ لَيْلَةٍ

Abu Hurayrah (radiya Allahu ‘anhu) narrated that Allah’s Messenger ﷺ said: “During the first night of the month of Ramadan, the devils will be chained along with the rebellious ones of the Jinn. The gates of the Fire will be shut, and no door from it will be opened. The gates of Paradise will open, and no door from it will close. A caller will announce every night: “O seeker of goodness, go forth; and O seeker of evil, limit [yourself].” For Allah there will be people manumitted from the Fire, and that will be every night.”

Narrated by At-Tirmidhee (682). Graded as hasan by Al-Albanee

The Prophet ﷺ informs us that the one who attains success in Ramadan is the one who seeks the reward of Allah by means of righteous actions. As for one who seeks sins and bad deeds, he is told to limit himself and desist from his wrongdoing. Thus, it is important that you become a seeker of goodness during the month of Ramadan.

Beware of being prevented from doing good deeds during the month of mercy: Ramadan. Before Ramadan approaches, Shaytan works tirelessly to leave the servant of Allah in a state of disobedience. His goal is to keep the person in such a state, so that when Ramadan enters, it will be difficult for him to change his ways and let go of his misdeeds and bad habits.

The solution to that is for a person to make a conscious effort to let go of sins and bad habits in the months prior to Ramadan. Once the month enters, a person will be in a better position to do acts of goodness and worship.

Feeling the Blessing of Ramadan

Chapter Three

The next step to take when preparing for Ramadan is to make sure you feel the tremendous blessing of Ramadan. You should feel delighted at the approach of Ramadan and feel anxious for the month to enter, so that you will get a chance to fast and train your nafs, to accumulate good deeds and to feel nearness to Allah.

Some people feel unhappy at the approach of Ramadan. They may feel that fasting during Ramadan is a burden because it will take them out of their routine for work, school, or other goals. If one notices these feelings, he must work to repel them. He should rethink his priorities: Do I only seek to accumulate worldly assets? Are fasting and praying mere obstructions which impede the progress of my primary goals which are only worldly in nature? Allah, ﷻ, says:

- 1 **قُلْ بِفَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَبِرَحْمَتِهِ فَبِذَلِكَ فَلْيَفْرَحُوا هُوَ خَيْرٌ مِّمَّا يَجْمَعُونَ**
{Say, "In the bounty of Allāh and in His mercy – in that let them rejoice; it is better than what they accumulate."}
 Surah Yunus 58

If we believe in Allah's promise and our goal is the Hereafter, we must feel happy and rejoice at the coming of Ramadan, a month in which Allah's mercy descends and He frees people from the torment of the Fire. It is a month in which the believers seek to trade with Allah, may He be glorified and exalted, with the righteous deeds that they do, begging Him for a place in Jannah. Allah says:

- 2 **إِنَّ اللَّهَ اشْتَرَى مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَنْفُسَهُمْ وَأَمْوَالَهُمْ بِأَنْ لَهُمُ الْجَنَّةُ**
Indeed, Allāh has purchased from the believers their lives and their properties [in exchange] for that they will have Paradise.
 Surah At-Tawbah 111

Indeed, fasting comes with immense reward, which one cannot enumerate; Allah said, ﷻ, as was narrated by the Prophet ﷺ:

- 3 **كُلُّ عَمَلِ ابْنِ آدَمَ لَهُ إِلَّا الصَّوْمَ، فَإِنَّهُ لِي وَأَنَا أَجْزِي بِهِ**
Abu Hurayrah (radiya Allahu ‘anhu) narrated that Allah’s Messenger said (salla Allahu ‘alayhi wa sallam): “[Allah says:] All deeds of the son of Adam are for him, except fasting – indeed, it is for Me; and I will recompense him for it.”
 Al-Bukharee (5927) and Muslim (1151)

Repenting Before Ramadan Approaches

Chapter Four

Perhaps the most important step to take when preparing for the month of Ramadan is to repent to Allah with a sincere repentance, asking Allah for forgiveness for your misdeeds in the past. Indeed, these sins which sit on your shoulders will prevent you from doing good during Ramadan. Allah, ﷻ, says:

1

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا تَوْبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ تَوْبَةً نَّصُوحًا عَسَىٰ رَبُّكُمْ أَن يُكَفِّرَ عَنْكُمْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَيُدْخِلَكُمُ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ يَوْمَ لَا يُخْزِي اللَّهُ النَّبِيَّ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ

O you who have believed, repent to Allāh with sincere repentance. Perhaps your Lord will remove from you your misdeeds and admit you into gardens beneath which rivers flow [on] the Day when Allāh will not disgrace the Prophet and those who believed with him

Surah At-Tahreem 8

The steps to do **tawbah** (repent) are three:

- 1 Give up the sin at once.
- 2 Regret the misdeed that was committed.
- 3 Resolve not to return to that sin.

Indeed, our sins weigh heavily on us. The effects of sins are that they constrict our hearts, feeling as though the world is closed in around us. These sins, if not repented from, will cause us to follow one bad deed with another, and it will prevent us from doing good. The moment you return back to Allah and submit to Him, asking Him for forgiveness while you regret what you did, your chest opens up again and you feel the weight lifted from you.

Therefore, do your best to prepare for Ramadan by repenting from your sins. Do not let them prevent you from attaining success in Ramadan, causing you to become of those who remain behind and are deprived. Allah, ﷻ, says regarding those who stayed back from battle:

2

وَلَوْ أَرَادُوا الْخُرُوجَ لَأَعَدُّوا لَهُ عُدَّةً وَلَكِن كَرِهَ اللَّهُ انْبِعَاثَهُمْ فَثَبَّطَهُمْ وَقِيلَ اقْعُدُوا مَعَ الْقَاعِدِينَ

And if they had intended to go forth, they would have prepared for it [some] preparation. But Allāh disliked their being sent, so He kept them back, and they were told, "Remain [behind] with those who remain."

Surah At-Tawbah 46

Coming into Ramadan With a Good Intention

Chapter Five

The final step to take in preparation for Ramadan is to go into the month with a good intention. Allah knows what is in our hearts and He knows our intentions. Allah, ﷻ, will grant us the strength and ability to perform well in Ramadan based on what He knows of our intentions. Thus, a person must intend that he or she will do his best during the month, fasting it and performing righteous actions out of faith and anticipating the reward from Allah.

Allah says:

1 يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لِمَنْ فِي أَيْدِيكُمْ مِنَ الْأَسْرَىٰ إِنَّ يَعْلَمَ اللَّهُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ خَيْرًا يُؤْتِكُمْ خَيْرًا مِّمَّا أُخِذَ مِنْكُمْ وَيَغْفِرَ لَكُمْ ۗ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

O Prophet, say to whoever is in your hands of the captives, "If Allāh knows [any] good in your hearts, He will give you [something] better than what was taken from you, and He will forgive you; and Allāh is Forgiving and Merciful."

Surah Al-Anfal 70

Thus, if Allah knows you have a sincere intention, He will guide you to the good that you are seeking, and He will forgive you and have mercy on you.

Allah, ﷻ, also says:

2 لَقَدْ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ يُبَايِعُونَكَ تَحْتَ الشَّجَرَةِ فَعَلِمَ مَا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ فَأَنْزَلَ السَّكِينَةَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَثَابَهُمْ فَتْحًا قَرِيبًا

Certainly was Allāh pleased with the believers when they pledged allegiance to you, [O Muḥammad], under the tree, and He knew what was in their hearts, so He sent down tranquility upon them and rewarded them with an imminent conquest

Surah Al-Fath 18

Lastly, remember to ask Allah for success and a sincere intention going into Ramadan. Supplicate to Him earnestly before Ramadan comes, asking Him for assistance and strength to achieve goodness during it. This is especially for a person who finds lack of motivation to prepare for this great and noble month.

Indeed, Allah responds to the du'a of His servant:

3 إِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ ۖ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ ۖ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ

And when My servants ask you, [O Muḥammad], concerning Me – indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me. So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided.

Surah Al-Baqarah 186



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